

College Cash for Foster Youth

CALIFORNIA CHAFEE GRANT PROGRAM



Are you eligible for *California Chafee Independent Living Program* services?

**Do you want to go to college or get special job training?
Then, read on because a Chafee Grant is free money that
can get you there.**



Here are Some Answers to Your Questions

What is a California Chafee Grant?

The California Chafee Grant Program gives up to \$5,000 annually of free money to foster youth and former foster youth to use for college courses or vocational school training. And you don't have to pay it back!

What do I need to apply?

You must be enrolled in a:

- ◆ college or vocational school that is eligible
- ◆ course of study at least half time
- ◆ course of study that is at least one year long and is eligible

And you must keep those grades up, or "maintain satisfactory academic progress."

To apply, you must:

- ✓ have been in foster care between your 16th and 18th birthday, and not have reached your 22nd birthday as of July 1, 2003
- ✓ file two forms:
 - ◆ 2003-04* Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA. Send the paper form to the U. S. Department of Education (a self-addressed envelope is included with the FAFSA), or file online at www.fafsa.ed.gov **and**
 - ◆ California Chafee Grant Program Application. Send it to the Commission. It's on our Web site at www.csac.ca.gov

At our Web site, click on *Commission Programs*; then click on *California Chafee Grant Program*. Or you can call the Commission and ask for an application.

How will I know if I'm selected?

The Commission will review your 2003-04 FAFSA and evaluate your Chafee Grant application. The Commission will send you a letter to tell you if you are receiving a grant or not.

How will I get the grant?

Your grant will be sent to the college or vocational school where you are enrolled. Talk to your school's financial aid advisor about how the school will apply the grant.

Will the award affect my other school aid?

Receipt of this award **may** affect other financial aid, so be sure to check with your school's financial aid office.

May I renew my Chafee Grant?

Funds are available for the 2003-04 academic year and may be available for the 2004-05 academic year. If federal funding is approved, you may renew your application by completing the 2004-05 FAFSA **and** a Chafee Grant Renewal Application that will be mailed to you in June 2004. Your renewal application must be completed by September 1, 2004, to receive priority consideration.

* Please use only the **2003-04 FAFSA** for the current grant; *do not* use the 2004-05 FAFSA.

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Can I attend a college outside California?

Yes, you can attend a California college or vocational school or one outside of California. Your college and program of study must meet certain criteria.

Could I lose California Chafee Grant benefits?

Your Chafee Grant will not be paid if your enrollment in a college or vocational school falls below half-time or if you fail to maintain satisfactory academic progress.

Can others help me learn about Chafee Grants?

Yes, you can contact your:

- ◆ caseworker
- ◆ County ILP Coordinator
- ◆ school financial aid administrator
- ◆ One-Stop Centers



How can I contact the Commission?

If you have questions regarding the California Chafee Grant Program:



You can call 1-888-224-7268 #3 from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.



You can write the Commission at:

California Student Aid Commission
Specialized Programs
Attn: California Chafee Grant Program
P. O. Box 419029
Rancho Cordova, CA 95741-9029



You can e-mail your questions to the Commission at: specialized@csac.ca.gov



You can review general California Chafee Grant information. Just log onto the Commission's Web site at: www.csac.ca.gov
Click on *Commission Programs*, then click on *California Chafee Grant Program*.
(Our on-line Chafee applications are under construction.)

Let's Keep in Touch-

The Commission will send information to you periodically, so please keep the Commission informed of your current address. Plus, the Commission will need a current address to send any renewal information to you.

It's also important that you promptly notify the Commission of any changes in your:

- ◆ School of attendance
- ◆ Enrollment status
- ◆ Name
- ◆ Social Security Number (SSN)
- ◆ Telephone number